

"Let us proclaim a creed to preserve our natural heritage with rights and duties to respect those rights:

The right to clean water - and the duty not to pollute it.

The right to clean air - and the duty not to befoul it.

The right to surroundings reasonably free from man-made ugliness - and the duty not to blight.

The right of easy access to places of beauty and tranquility where every family can find recreation and refreshment - and the duty to preserve such places clean and unspoiled.

The right to enjoy plants and animals in their natural habitats - and the duty not to eliminate them from the face of the earth."

President Johnson in a Special Conservation Message to Congress on February 23, 1966

STACKS

ACTION FOR OUR WETLANDS

Through the efforts of Mr. Allan Kitchel, Jr. and Mrs. Reynolds Girdler, both of Greenwich, a group of concerned Connecticut citizens are forming an action committee to work on the vital and immediate task of trying to save our Connecticut wetlands. The group has met with state officials, studied programs occurring in other states, and is setting up a proposed plan of action. They have received a letter of encouragement from Governor Dempsey and the support of many conservationists concerned with this vital problem.

Efforts will be given to supporting legislation that State agencies request to protect and preserve wetlands. It is hoped that legislation following the patterns set in Massachusetts and Rhode Island will be presented in the next General Assembly and this Committee plans to support bills that will successfully protect our coastal and inland wetlands.

Initial efforts will be directed to preserving dwindling salt marsh acreage. If the present rates of destruction continue the salt marshes along our coastline will be nearly all gone by the year 2000. This is a project all of us MUST work upon

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LONG ISLAND BRIDGE: Progress or Destruction?

Nearly all of us must now be aware of the proposed Long Island Bridge which currently is planned to come into Connecticut in Old Saybrook on the west bank of the Connecticut River. Where the bridge approaches are apt to be placed are located some of the best salt water marshes in our State: the Ragged Rock Marshes on the west side of the Connecticut River. A large part of these marshes are in a State Hunting Area. They add great value to our state in terms of recreation, aesthetics and flood absorbtion, not to mention the tremendous productivity value in the food chain of fish and shellfish.

Even if these marshes were to be bypassed, which is unlikely in the non-natural-resources-thinking of bridge and road designers, there are many reasons why any public expenditure of funds for this purpose would be questionable. One would be the great likelihood, if not certainty, that such a connector would weaken the economic position of the Connecticut Thruway since many vehicles including trucks, which pay tolls on the Thruway, might very likely come out Long Island and over the bridge. We should remember that the tax credit of all of us as citizens of the State of

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ACTION FOR OUR WETLANDS (continued)

actively if these irreplaceable public assets are not to be lost forever.

Preservation, acquisition, legislation, education and information to the public concerning our wetlands are all topics of activity by this Committee. A pamphlet is being prepared for distribution which will explain the value of salt water marshes and stress the need for immediate action by us all. Similar work will follow concerning the value of our fresh water swamps, bogs and other types of wetlands.

The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has long been involved with efforts to preserve coastal wetlands and is pleased to see increased concern and activity directed on this critical problem. Marshes are an important part of Connecticut's heritage and a vital part of our natural resources which should not be destroyed.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee is seeking assistance from any and all who would be willing to spread the message of The Nature Conservancy and enroll new members. Mr. F. G. Jewett, Chairman of the Committee has several excellent plans underway to stimulate membership growth. One of the best ways to grow is to have concerned members tell of the work of The Nature Conservancy in its attempts to preserve Natural Areas. If each of our members could let their friends know of the Connecticut Chapter's work and ask them to join, it would enable our conservation message to go to many more concerned Connecticut citizens. The role The Nature Conservancy serves in helping to preserve Natural Areas should be known to all those interested in keeping some of Connecticut green and unspoiled.

Materials and assistance can be had for doing this from:

LONG ISLAND BRIDGE (continued)

Connecticut has been pledged to pay off the Thruway's bonds.

Senator Ribicoff has publically announced that he is "bitterly opposed and will do my utmost to fight against any bridge linking Connecticut and New York's shoreline." He is to be commended for this firm and excellent position. A coastline newspaper commented that "To persons who realize how the vast network of clover-leaves, rotaries, connecting roads, etc., would devastate the landscape on the shore end, this [Senator Ribicoff's stand] seems not only logical but courageous, in the face of much pressure for a structure."

U. S. Representative Pike from New York, in commenting on the recent finding that a Long Island Bridge was feasible, said that it should not come as a great shock that we can indeed build a bridge across Long Island Sound to Connecticut. He said that "no one has bothered to determine whether such a bridge is desirable." He added that such a plan would accelerate the eastern end of Long Island becoming more like the western end of Long Island and then said that "there is substantial question in my mind that this is a change for the better."

One cannot deny that building a Long Island Bridge would be change, but we can and do question with Representative Pike whether this change is progress or destruction.

Senator Ribicoff's position that the destruction of Connecticut's coastline is too high a price to pay deserves our support. As is the case with all public officials, we are sure he would appreciate letters supporting his position.

MEMBERSHIP (continued)

Mr. F. G. Jewett, Chairman
Hamburg Road
Lyme, Connecticut 06371.

LAND STEWARDSHIP IN A NEW WAY: GIFT AND LEASE-BACK

The Land Acquisition Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has been studying various methods of land stewardship. Part of their research has been into a new method of giving land - that is, gift and lease-back.

By this method of preserving land the owner conveys full title to The Nature Conservancy and the Conservancy then leases the property back to the owner thereby allowing the owner to have in the lease whatever rights he may want for himself or his family. The lease provisions would have to be compatible with keeping the area in its wilderness or natural condition. The lease could be for as long as the lifetime of the owner or donor of the land plus his wife and perhaps even for children, or it could be for a specified number of years. In this manner the Conservancy would eventually own the property outright yet the donor of the land could retain whatever rights he wanted for his life and possibly for the lives of others in his immediate family. The donor of the land could also place restrictions in the deed and/or could provide for a gift to another conservation organization in the event The Nature Conservancy at any time in the future did not observe the restrictions placed upon the land.

No case of a gift and lease-back, to the Committee's knowledge, has been reviewed by the federal income tax authorities but this method of giving might entitle the donor of the land to a charitable deduction for the full value of the land, especially where the lease-back provisions are only nominal, such as a right to enter upon the land for personal enjoyment which right normally would be shared by the general public on most of our land holdings.

The Land Acquisition Committee has been studying this new method of stewardship and other methods of land preservation in great depth. Inquiries on this and other ways of land giving may be addressed to the Committee Chairman, Mrs. John M. Hamilton, Binney Lane, Old Greenwich, Connecticut.

STEWARDSHIP WITH THE USE OF FEDERAL AND STATE OPEN SPACE FUNDS

For the person who desires to preserve their land yet cannot afford to give his or her land to a conservation organization such as The Nature Conservancy, there is now a method to give the land to the local town, possibly with restrictions on use as the owner or donor desires, and still receive up to 75% of the value of the land without the town having to pay anything for the land. This is by using the federal and state open space funds and the individual owner making a gift to the town of 25% which is the town's share.

For example, if a 100-acre tract of land is worth \$80,000 and the owner wants the land to be kept mostly in its open undeveloped condition with only a small portion or none used for intensive recreational use, the town can apply for open space matching funds from the federal and state governments. If the application is granted, which would include acceptance and approval of whatever restrictions the owner wanted on the land, the Federal Government would contribute 50% or \$40,000, the State of Connecticut 25% or \$20,000, making a total of \$60,000 which the owner would receive and the balance of \$20,000 he would contribute as a gift to the town for its 25% share. The amount of the gift would then be available to the owner as a charitable contribution to offset part and perhaps all of the capital gain he might have to pay on the \$60,000 received.

The Nature Conservancy would be pleased to meet with owners of land to guide and assist them in any contemplated transfer of land to open space whether by full gift, by easement, by gift and lease-back or even one such as this described above where no legal interest may be approved by law to be placed in the name of a private organization such as The Nature Conservancy. Our goal is to have living museums and open space, and the method used or ownership arrangements are secondary to the dedication and acquisition of lands for such purposes.

We believe that careful consideration should be given to including in deeds

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BYRAM RIVER GORGE - STILL GROWING

Another key piece in the heart of the Byram River Gorge has been successfully added to the preserved sections of this steep-walled gorge in Greenwich, Connecticut. Purchase of the 9½-acre tract known as the Hycliff Parcel, was completed in March. This was an important piece for it unifies two important sections of the gorge already preserved, and stretches across the gorge on both sides at a picturesque bend in the River. As part of the undisturbed portion of the Byram River Gorge, it contains a lovely hemlock forest.

The Project Committee which has been working so hard and so successfully on the Byram River Gorge includes: Mrs. Gerrish H. Milliken, Jr. - Chairman; Mr. August Klipstein; Mr. Erard Mattiessen; Mrs. Avery Rockefeller; Mr. Frank Y. Larkin; Mrs. John M. Hamilton; Mr. Oscar St. John; and Mrs. William Stevenson.

In conjunction with acquisition efforts of this Committee, they have also compiled an interesting pamphlet entitled "Workshop on Acquisition Tools."

STEWARDSHIP WITH ... OPEN SPACE FUNDS (continued)

items such as reverter clauses and language of purpose when conveying title to insure against acts of open space or conservation stewardship in later years being easily converted to other purposes and lost to future generations. Too often in the past donors of land have found their faith in certain organizations misplaced but there has been no way to correct the change of mind by the organization leaders who received the gift.

In the days of increasing pressure for intensive land uses which lie ahead, we must insure that the stewardship efforts of today do not become lost by failure of the donors to clearly set out in the deed how they want the land kept.

NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL 15th ANNUAL CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

The annual Conservation Conference day programmed by the Natural Resources Council of Connecticut this year will be on Thursday, April 28th at Restland Farms in Northford, Connecticut. The theme is "Water Crisis! Real or Imaginary?" Three panels in the morning, luncheon with an address by Governor John Chafee (R.I.) and a Conference summary in the afternoon by Mr. Richard Martin, Director of Connecticut's Clean Water Task Force will fill out a conservation day. The Connecticut Chapter hopes to have a display of some of our projects at the conference.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a Registration Card for the Conference for those who may not have received one by direct mailing.

INLAND WETLANDS MAPPED FOR DESTRUCTION

The following item points up the crucial need to preserve our wetlands NOW. As we wait those who can profit by destroying the wetlands are acting and will continue to do so.

It is reported that commercial interests have already surveyed and evaluated nearly every existing swamp, bog and other wetlands in Northwestern Connecticut. Their purpose is to show developers potential locations of what they consider "useless swamps" which can be developed. The idea of development normally is to dredge the center of a wet area to make a pond or lake. The dredged material is then placed at the edge to make building lots for sale.

The losers in this scheme are wildlife and the public. Wildlife loses a habitat and the public loses the wetland storage capacity. Wetland areas help to hold back flood waters and help to recharge underground water tables between rainfalls - especially in times of drought.

The time to act is now to preserve as many swamps and wetlands as we can before they are destroyed for private development.

COASTAL WETLANDS BILL - ENACTED IN MASSACHUSETTS

Last Fall, Massachusetts passed a law which may well go down as the turning point in the effort to preserve salt water marshes or coastal wetlands. It is now provided that in Massachusetts the State Commissioner of Natural Resources may prohibit "dredging, filling, removing or otherwise altering, or polluting, coastal wetlands." After a public hearing the landowner is protected by being able to appeal to Court within 90 days if he feels he has been unfairly treated. It is estimated that about two years will be required to catalogue and record the coastal wetlands, hold public hearings, etc. for all of the about 45,000 acres of remaining coastal salt water marshes in Massachusetts. Then these marshes will have state protection from unwise or selfish destruction.

One interesting point to note is that when this bill was passed not one single legislator voted against the bill! This speaks well for the basic fairness of its provisions as well as the recognition by the Massachusetts legislators of the great social need for preservation of these essentially public natural resources.

It is hoped that our state agencies will follow the lead of the Massachusetts state agencies which introduced this forward-looking bill. Massachusetts wrote in its bill that it was "an emergency law, necessary for immediate preservation of the public convenience" and that "deferred operation of this Act would tend to defeat its purposes." These statements are well phrased to describe our condition in Connecticut.

But our Connecticut legislators need to know how we feel. We cannot stay silent and expect that such a bill will be introduced or supported.

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A MARSHLAND PROTECTED - BY DECISION OF THE WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

The increasing awareness upon the part of all of us, including official state agencies, of the high public value of salt water marshes was evidenced by a recent decision of the Connecticut Water Resources Commission.

In the town of Essex on the west bank of the Connecticut River there is a tidal cove known as North Cove which has valuable salt water marshes. An application was filed with the Water Resources Commission for permission to erect docks for a private boating facility out upon the state-owned tidal waters in the cove beyond the high water mark of the coastline. The proposed docks were to be nearby some of the salt water marshes in North Cove. The use of the boating facility would have endangered or destroyed the marshland. Numerous citizens in and around the mouth of the Connecticut River including many from Essex wrote to the Water Resources Commission urging the Commission to exercise its power to protect the marshland by denying the request for the docks.

Although no marshland was to have been actually dredged or filled itself, the boating facility would have many boats going and coming which by their wash and wave action would continually erode the edge of the marsh. Also increased boating would have caused pollution and contamination of the marshes in North Cove from petroleum deposits discharged by boat motors. This would be an accumulated pollution in the cove with its effects building up year by year.

Many of the persons urging protection of the marshes in North Cove lived miles away and probably will gain little, if any, personal benefit from their efforts. They were acting, however, on the premise that united we can

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BIOCIDE BLUNDER PESTICIDE POLICY

A reprint of the two above entitled articles is enclosed with this copy of your Newsletter. Their message is so timely it was felt that nothing short of giving our members the entire reprint would suffice for these two articles which have both appeared in the Massachusetts Audubon Society Magazine. The author, Dr. Stephen Collins, is one of the active members of our Connecticut Chapter and his message is of particular concern to Connecticut readers. We urge each of you to read these interestingly written articles which are of particular importance as another spraying season approaches.

This pamphlet is an excellent digest of many pesticide problems and contains a helpful bibliography for those who wish more details. Additional copies of this reprint are available at 10¢ each by writing to your Newsletter Editor (Box 147, Old Mystic, Connecticut 06372).

Dr. Collins begins with a very potent paragraph:

"Pollution of our planet today proceeds upon an unprecedented scale which must be arrested for the sake of all life - including man."

Our congratulations to Steve for an excellent job well done!

MASSACHUSETTS WETLANDS BILL (continued)

We can feel certain that persons desiring to dump, fill or dredge salt water marshes are making their needs or wants known. Let's join our Massachusetts cousins in requesting desperately needed protections for an irreplaceable natural resource which is vanishing acre after acre-our coastal salt marshes.

A MARSHLAND PROTECTED (continued)

save these valuable public natural resources but that divided we can expect each to be chipped away.

The person with a project that may endanger or destroy a marshland often refuses to recognize that his actions are part of the total environment but instead asks, "What difference does one or two acres of marshland make when hundreds of acres will still be left? Why pick on me?" We are now becoming aware most acutely that one or two acres lost to each of the hundreds of persons or corporations who want to fill, dredge or otherwise endanger or destroy marshland will result in almost total destruction if a halt is not made HERE AND NOW to all losses. After all, the only way a pail of water can be filled is by drops of water and even if only a single drop is lost each minute, the pail would soon be empty. No way is known to recreate or make new marshland. It is estimated that 20,000 years are needed to naturally form a salt water marsh.

Abetted by much citizen action urging preservation and protection of the salt marshes, the Water Resources Commission denied the application. Thus a significant and important milestone was reached in the effort to protect public natural resources values - i.e. salt water marshes.

It has been said that if enough of the public want something that they eventually will be successful. It seems that if the public continues to demand protection for marshland strongly enough we will have protection. Eternal vigilance, however, will be the price even after we have passed laws, made declarations of public policy, etc. It is inconceivable that there will be no persons in the near future who will seek to destroy marshland if such destruction will be of personal benefit. Such a time of public consciousness may yet come, but it would be foolhardy to expect it within a few short years.

SUMMER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

The well-known Conservation Workshop will again be held this summer by the Willimantic State College in cooperation with the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and the White Memorial Foundation. This will be a three-week course on June 27th - July 15th to be held at the White Memorial Foundation facilities on Bantam Lake in Litchfield. Dr. William J. Jahoda and Dr. Raymond Kienholz will again be Co-Directors assisted by visiting lecturers and trip leaders.

Field studies and lectures will cover such topics as geology, soil conservation, water problems, plant ecology, forest practices, fisheries management, pollution and a special study trip to the Connecticut shore. Problems of population explosions will be related to these various topics.

This course carries academic credit. Enrollment is open to anyone; but total enrollment is limited to twenty-five, so prompt application is needed to be sure of space. Total cost, \$100; a limited number of scholarships are available from the Federated Garden Clubs. Chapter members who have attended the course have found it informative and very interesting. Registration material may be requested from: Mr. Bruce Bradford, Director, Summer School, Willimantic State College, Willimantic, Connecticut, 06226. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Jahoda at Willimantic State College.

CONSERVATION DATE

April 19 - "The Citizen's Stake in Legal Protection of Recreational Resources and Personal Property" is the topic of a meeting being held for area towns at the mouth of the Connecticut River. Two aspects will be addressed to as follows: "Conserving Public Resources" by Clifford Emanuelson, of Pinchot Institute, formerly with the Open Space Action Committee and "Conserving Private Resources" by Atty. Charles S. Tarpinian. All interested persons are welcome. The meeting will

OSPREYS RETURN TO BARN ISLAND NATURAL AREA

On an all to brief trip afield on Saturday, April 2nd, I was happy to see that a pair of ospreys had returned to the Barn Island Natural Area again this year. In addition at least one other pair were in evidence over the marshes of the Barn Island Game Management Area.

It is always a joy to see these great birds return to the Connecticut shore in the Spring and one could hope that they will always do so; but the prognosis for this species is anything but encouraging.

Roger Tory Peterson's testimony in April 1964 before a Senate Subcommittee pretty well sums up the situation of the disastrous decline in the osprey population (because of unsuccessful nesting) with all indications pointing to the sterilization of adult birds by our old enemies, DDT, DDE and the lethargic action of the Board of Pesticide Control on this matter.

It would be very helpful if a "Connecticut Osprey Watch" were constituted whereby the population level and the reproduction rate of this species could be censused and the data compiled for use in an effort to save this bird from extinction in Connecticut. Any volunteers? If you are interested in such a study, please contact the Editor.

- - Robert F. Kunz

Editor's Note: A 50-acre portion of the Barn Island complex has been designated as a Natural Area for a three year trial period beginning in July 1964. During this time this Natural Area has been used for many field trips, studies and observations of marsh and coastal upland ecology. It is hoped that this designation by the Connecticut Board of Fisheries & Game will become more permanent for this Natural Area in Stonington, Connecticut.

DATE (continued)

be held at the Goodwin School, Old Saybrook, Route 1-A, 7:30 - 10:00 PM. Registration: 75¢ (includes dessert and coffee).

BULLETINS LISTING FOR THE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

From time to time your Editor hopes to list in the Newsletter an index of the brochures, pamphlets and booklets which the Connecticut Chapter has available for its membership. Any interested person is invited to send for any of those listed from the Newsletter Editor. An attempt to meet costs on reprints of certain publications does cause the Chapter to ask for donations as noted below. Unless so designated these bulletins are free upon request.

LIVING MUSEUMS

- A pamphlet on the purposes of The Nature Conservancy.

HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR AREA FOR ITS NATURAL VALUE

- A pamphlet giving ideas for preservation of land.

NATURAL AREAS IN CONNECTICUT

- A folder listing briefly the Natural Areas in Connecticut and suggesting ways to preserve land in its wild condition.

THE NATURAL AREAS OF CONNECTICUT

- A 35-page booklet on Natural Areas in Connecticut giving brief descriptions, status and locations of each. 50¢ each.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1964

- A yearly brochure giving a brief description and pictures of some highlights of the preceding year that have been preserved by or through The Nature Conservancy nationally.

BANTAM RIVER EXCERPT FROM STEWARDSHIP

- An 8-page extract reprinted from Stewardship. One copy free to each member, 10¢ apiece thereafter.

BIOCIDE BLUNDER AND PESTICIDE POLICY

- Two articles by Dr. Stephen Collins which appeared in Mass. Audubon Society Magazine. 10¢ each.

SUMMER FIELD MEETING

July 9th - a tentative date to note on your calendar. The Connecticut Chapter is formulating plans for the Summer Field Meeting and hopes to have a special tour of our new and fascinating acquisition - Devil's Den in Weston. A full announcement will be in the June Newsletter.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Officers and Trustees of the Connecticut Chapter met on Saturday, April 2nd at the Children's Museum in West Hartford for one of their regular meetings. After the business session the Museum Director, Mrs. Jane Cheney gave a most interesting tour of the museum. In the afternoon the Chapter people were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ostrum Enders at their geese farm in Avon. It was difficult to decide whether the magnificent view overlooking the Farmington River Valley or studying the many varieties of geese and ducks occupied those attending more.

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The Editor invites any comments concerning, or articles for, the Chapter Newsletter.

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